

1 AN ACT concerning community revitalization.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Community Self-Revitalization Act.

6 Section 5. Findings and purpose.

7 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

8 (1) There is a great need for economic revitalization
9 in many communities throughout this State.

10 (2) Each community has valuable resources at its
11 fingertips that can be tapped in the revitalization
12 process.

13 (3) With adequate support and assistance from the State
14 and other resources, each community can participate in and
15 shepherd its own economic renewal.

16 (4) Successful redevelopment plans are based on policy
17 that is responsive to the existing composition and
18 character of the economically distressed community and
19 that allows and compels the community to participate in the
20 redevelopment planning process.

21 (5) A successful redevelopment initiative creates and
22 maintains a capable and adaptable workforce, has access to
23 capital, has a sound fiscal base, has adequate

1 infrastructure, has well-managed natural resources, and
2 has an attractive quality of life.

3 (b) It is the purpose of this legislation to provide a
4 mechanism for an economically distressed community to use in
5 its efforts to revitalize the community.

6 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Section:

7 "Community" means a municipality or a county with respect
8 to the unincorporated areas of a county.

9 "Department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic
10 Opportunity.

11 "Economically distressed community" means (i) in the case
12 of a municipality with a population of 25,000 or more, the
13 municipality is certified by the Department as being in the
14 highest 10% of all municipalities of 25,000 or more in the
15 State in its average annual total unemployment rate for the
16 last completed calendar year and its poverty rate, pursuant to
17 the most recent U.S. census data available or (ii) in the case
18 of a municipality with a population of less than 25,000 or an
19 unincorporated area, a municipality or unincorporated area
20 that is located at least partly in a county that is certified
21 by the Department as being in the highest 10% of all counties
22 in its average annual total unemployment rate for the last
23 completed calendar year and its poverty rate, pursuant to the
24 most recent U.S. census data available.

1 Section 15. Certification; Board of Economic Advisors.

2 (a) In order to receive the assistance as provided in this
3 Act, a community shall first, by ordinance passed by its
4 corporate authorities, request that the Department certify
5 that it is an economically distressed community. The community
6 must submit a certified copy of the ordinance to the
7 Department. After review of the ordinance, if the Department
8 determines that the community meets the requirements for
9 certification, the Department may certify the community as an
10 economically distressed community.

11 (b) A community that is certified by the Department as an
12 economically distressed community may appoint a Board of
13 Economic Advisors to create and implement a revitalization plan
14 for the community. The Board shall consist of 18 members of the
15 community, appointed by the mayor or the presiding officer of
16 the county or jointly by the presiding officers of each
17 municipality and county that have joined to form a community
18 for the purposes of this Act. Up to 18 Board members may be
19 appointed from the following vital sectors:

20 (1) A member representing households and families.

21 (2) A member representing religious organizations.

22 (3) A member representing educational institutions.

23 (4) A member representing daycare centers, care
24 centers for the handicapped, and care centers for the
25 disadvantaged.

26 (5) A member representing community based

1 organizations such as neighborhood improvement
2 associations.

3 (6) A member representing federal and State employment
4 service systems, skill training centers, and placement
5 referrals.

6 (7) A member representing Masonic organizations,
7 fraternities, sororities, and social clubs.

8 (8) A member representing hospitals, nursing homes,
9 senior citizens, public health agencies, and funeral
10 homes.

11 (9) A member representing organized sports, parks,
12 parties, and games of chance.

13 (10) A member representing political parties, clubs,
14 and affiliations, and election related matters concerning
15 voter education and participation.

16 (11) A member representing the cultural aspects of the
17 community, including cultural events, lifestyles,
18 languages, music, visual and performing arts, and
19 literature.

20 (12) A member representing police and fire protection
21 agencies, prisons, weapons systems, and the military
22 industrial complex.

23 (13) A member representing local businesses.

24 (14) A member representing the retail industry.

25 (15) A member representing the service industry.

26 (16) A member representing the industrial, production,

1 and manufacturing sectors.

2 (17) A member representing the advertising and
3 marketing industry.

4 (18) A member representing the technology services
5 industry.

6 The Board shall meet initially within 30 days of its
7 appointment, shall select one member as chairperson at its
8 initial meeting, and shall thereafter meet at the call of the
9 chairperson. Members of the Board shall serve without
10 compensation.

11 (c) One third of the initial appointees shall serve for 2
12 years, one third shall serve for 3 years, and one third shall
13 serve for 4 years, as determined by lot. Subsequent appointees
14 shall serve terms of 5 years.

15 (d) The Board shall create a 3-year to 5-year
16 revitalization plan for the community. The plan shall contain
17 distinct, measurable objectives for revitalization. The
18 objectives shall be used to guide ongoing implementation of the
19 plan and to measure progress during the 3-year to 5-year
20 period. The Board shall work in a dynamic manner defining goals
21 for the community based on the strengths and weaknesses of the
22 individual sectors of the community as presented by each member
23 of the Board. The Board shall meet periodically and revise the
24 plan in light of the input from each member of the Board
25 concerning his or her respective sector of expertise. The
26 process shall be a community driven revitalization process,

1 with community-specific data determining the direction and
2 scope of the revitalization.

3 Section 20. Action by the Board.

4 (a) Organize. The Board shall first assess the needs and
5 the resources of the community operating from the basic premise
6 that the family unit is the primary unit of community and that
7 the demand for goods and services from this residential sector
8 is the main source of recovery and growth for the redevelopment
9 of a community. The Board shall inventory community assets,
10 including the condition of the family with respect to the role
11 of the family as workers, consumers, and investors. The Board
12 shall inventory the type and viability of businesses and
13 industries currently in the community. In compiling the
14 inventory, the Board shall rely on the input of each Board
15 member with respect to his or her expertise in a given sector
16 of the revitalization plan.

17 (b) Revitalize. In implementing the revitalization plan,
18 the Board shall focus on and build from existing resources in
19 the community, growing existing businesses rather than luring
20 business into the community from the outside. The Board shall
21 also focus on the residents themselves rather than jobs. The
22 Board shall promote investment in training residents in areas
23 that will lead to employment and in turn will bring revenue
24 into the community.

25 (c) Mobilize. The Board shall engage in the dynamic process

1 of community self-revitalization through a continuous
2 reassessment of the needs of the community in the
3 revitalization process. As each goal of the 3-year to 5-year
4 plan is achieved, the Board shall draw from the resources of
5 its members to establish new goals and implement new strategies
6 employing the lessons learned in the earlier stages of
7 revitalization.

8 (d) Advise. The Board shall act as the liaison between the
9 community and the local, county, and State Government. The
10 Board shall make use of the resources of these governmental
11 entities and shall provide counsel to each of these bodies with
12 respect to economic development.

13 The Board shall also act as a liaison between private
14 business entities located in the community and the community
15 itself. The Board shall offer advice and assistance to these
16 entities when requested and provide incentives and support,
17 both economic and otherwise, to facilitate expansion and
18 further investment in the community by the businesses.

19 The Board shall annually submit a report to the General
20 Assembly and the Governor summarizing the accomplishments of
21 the community concerning revitalization and the goals of the
22 community for future revitalization.

23 Section 25. Funding sources. Subject to appropriation, the
24 Department may make grants to communities that are certified as
25 economically distressed communities under this Act and that

1 create a Board of Economic Advisors under this Act for the
2 operational expenses of the Board. The procedures for grant
3 application shall be established by the Department by rule.

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
5 becoming law.